

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4, 2026

4:00 PM Service



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Sunday Service at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 6 PM
Our Sunday 10 AM service is livestreamed

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

Restrooms: Handicap-accessible restrooms are located to the right as you go up the ramp through the archway across from the doors of the sanctuary.

All music is reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense account #A-711594. Most of the sung music is found in the blue hymnal, *The Hymnal, 1982*. In the bulletin, an “H” indicates the hymn section of the book; an “S” indicates it’s from the service music section in the front of the book.



Virtual Worship Bulletins

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
and every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your song birds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in; they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray... Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis of Assisi, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfection of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis 1:20-25

Officiant *The Reading is taken from Genesis chapter 1...*

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader For the artistry of spinning spiders, the industry of ants, for all alert animals of field and forest, for squirrels that gather, chipmunks that chatter, for mice that burrow, and pigs that root.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader For the splendor of the great deep and sparkling streams, for water bugs and dolphins, for all fish and sea life, and for the sheer size of whales.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader For all things that fly and have taught us to reach upward, for pelicans and parakeets, barn owls and peacocks, for eagles that soar, and for birds that nest in eaves and attics reminding us that we are not alone.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader For the animals that share our homes, for faithful dogs and purring cats, for all animals that teach us to love without judgement, for hamsters, birds, assorted reptiles, and rabbits.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader Make us proper stewards of all creation that, caring for your creatures and for their homes, we may come at last to that peaceable kingdom where lion and lamb lie down together.

People **Hear us, O Lord.**

A COLLECT FOR ANIMALS

Officiant O God, who has made all the earth and every creature that dwells upon it. Help us, we pray, to treat with compassion the living creatures entrusted to our care, that they may not suffer from our neglect nor become the victims of any cruelty; and grant that in caring for them we may find a deeper understanding of your love for all creation; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

People **Amen.**

A priest then blesses each animal individually, concluding with the following prayer for all animals and people present.

Officiant Bless, O Lord, these creatures which you have called into being. Grant that the love between person and pet would be a reminder of your love for us. Grant them joy and peace, health and long life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

(refrain) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. *(refrain)*

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. *(refrain)*

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Donations collected for small bags of pet food for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.
If you'd like to make a cash donation, please write "Food Pantry" in the check memo.

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Reverend Whitney Burton
Pianist	Tom Huffman